

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS OTIS HICKS & PATRICIA HICKS, h/w

DEFENDANTS BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION; FIA CARD SERVICES, N.A.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff \_\_\_\_\_

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant PHILADELPHIA

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Cary L. Flitter, Esq., and Theodore E. Lorenz, Esq., Flitter Lorenz, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Avenue, Suite 101, Narberth, PA 19072, (610) 822-0782

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |  |   |                            |                            |
|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| PTF  | DEF   | PTF                        | DEF                        |
| Citizen of This State <input type="checkbox"/> 1                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State <input type="checkbox"/> 2                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business in Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Foreign Nation   | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881		<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws	<b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs.	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<b>LABOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment		<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other			<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights			<input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property				<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Brief description of cause: TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint  
JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No.

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

APPENDIX F

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: 3246 Merchantville Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Address of Defendant: 4 Penn Center Plaza, 1600 J.F.K. Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 3246 Merchantville Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08109

(Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)

Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Yes ☐ No ☒

Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?

Yes ☐ No ☒

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:

1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes ☐ No ☒
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes ☐ No ☒

CIVIL: (Place ☒ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)

A. Federal Question Cases:

1. ☐ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
2. ☐ FELA
3. ☐ Jones Act-Personal Injury
4. ☐ Antitrust
5. ☐ Patent
6. ☐ Labor-Management Relations
7. ☐ Civil Rights
8. ☐ Habeas Corpus
9. ☐ Securities Act(s) Cases
10. ☐ Social Security Review Cases
11. ☒ All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify) TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

1. ☐ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. ☐ Airplane Personal Injury
3. ☐ Assault, Defamation
4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury
5. ☐ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. ☐ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. ☐ Products Liability
8. ☐ Products Liability (Asbestos)
9. ☐ All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify)

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

(Check appropriate Category)

I, ANDREW M. MILZ, counsel of record do hereby certify:

☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;

☒ Relief other than monetary damages is sought

DATE: 5/9/14

Andrew M. Milz  
Attorney-at-Law

207715

Attorney I.D.

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 5/9/14

CIV.609 (4/03)

Andrew M. Milz  
Attorney-at-Law

207715  
Attorney I.D.

## APPENDIX I

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**


OTIS HICKS & PATRICIA HICKS, h/w	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	
V.	:	
	:	
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION; FIA CARD SERVICES, N.A.	:	NO.
	:	

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

**SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:**

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. §2241 through §2255. (     )
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits (     )
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. (     )
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. (     )
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases) (     )
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. ( X     )

5/9/14  
Date

  
Attorney at Law

ANDREW M. MILZ  
Attorney for Plaintiff

(610) 822-0782  
Telephone  
(Civ.660) 10/02

(610) 667-0552  
Fax Number

AMILZ@consumerslaw.com  
E-Mail Address

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OTIS HICKS & PATRICIA HICKS, h/w  
3246 Merchantville Avenue  
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Plaintiff

vs.

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.  
4 Penn Center Plaza, 1600 J.F.K. Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

and

BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION  
4 Penn Center Plaza, 1600 J.F.K. Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

and

FIA CARD SERVICES, N.A.  
4 Penn Center Plaza, 1600 J.F.K. Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Defendants

CIVIL ACTION

NO.

**COMPLAINT**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This is an action for damages brought by individual consumers for violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 (hereinafter "TCPA").
2. The TCPA broadly prohibits any person from placing calls and text messages using an automated telephone dialing system or artificial or prerecorded voice to a cellular phone.
3. Defendants harassed Plaintiffs with repeated autodialed collection calls to their cell phones, in violation of the TCPA.

## **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. This Court has federal question subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' TCPA claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331; *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Ser., Inc.*, 132 S.Ct. 740 (2012).

5. Venue in this Court is proper in that Defendant transacts business here.

## **III. PARTIES**

6. Plaintiffs Otis Hicks and Patricia Hicks are husband and wife who reside in Pennsauken, NJ at the address captioned.

7. Defendant Bank of America, N.A. is a national association with its main office in Charlotte, NC, and a branch office at 4 Penn Center Plaza, 1617 JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

8. Defendant, Bank of America Corporation is a Delaware corporation that maintains a corporate headquarters in Charlotte, NC, and operates a branch office at 4 Penn Center Plaza, 1617 JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

9. Defendant FIA Card Services, N.A. is a national association that maintains corporate headquarters in Wilmington, DE, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Defendant Bank of American Corporation, with a branch office at 4 Penn Center Plaza, 1617 JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

10. Defendants, Bank of America, N.A., Bank of America Corporation, and FIA Card Services, N.A. are collectively referred to herein as ("Bank of America" or "Defendants").

11. Bank of America at all relevant times was, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

**IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIM**

12. Plaintiff Patricia Hicks has a cellular telephone number (ending in 7349) which she carries on her person and regularly uses.

13. Plaintiff Otis Hicks has a cellular telephone number (ending in 7340) which he carries on his person and regularly uses.

14. At all relevant times, these phone numbers were assigned to a cellular telephone service Plaintiffs used and paid for.

15. Bank of America placed calls to Plaintiffs' cellular telephone numbers in the effort to collect a Bank of America credit account.

16. Bank of America placed hundreds of calls to Plaintiffs' cell phones.

17. When answered, there would be a long pause or a recording, consistent with an automated telephone dialing system.

18. It is believed, and therefore averred, that the calls made by Bank of America to Plaintiffs' cell phones were made using either an automatic telephone dialing system, as that term is defined in 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(1), or an artificial or prerecorded voice.

19. Bank of America did not have the "prior express consent" that is required by the TCPA.

20. Plaintiffs told Bank of America to stop calling their cell phones, but the calls did not cease.

21. These telephone calls were not made for "emergency purposes," as defined by the Federal Communication Commission in 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200.

22. On December 6, 2007, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") issued a citation to Bank of America for violations of the TCPA, admonishing Bank of America that "[i]f

after receipt of this citation, you or your company violate the Communications Act or the Commission's rules in any manner described herein, the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures not to exceed \$11,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation."

FCC Citation to Bank of America, NA, Dec. 6, 2007, *available at* [http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-302755A1.pdf](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-302755A1.pdf)

23. Notwithstanding its prior violations and FCC's citation, Defendants continued to place prohibited calls to Plaintiffs' cell phones without their prior express consent.

24. Defendants willfully placed these auto-dialed calls to Plaintiffs without Plaintiffs' consent.

#### **COUNT I – TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

##### **OTIS HICKS v. ALL DEFENDANTS**

25. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained above as if the same were here set forth at length.

26. Defendants have violated the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., and its implementing Regulation at 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200 et seq., by making any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice to any telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

27. Plaintiff is entitled, under the TCPA, to statutory damages of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,500.00 for each autodialed or artificial/pre-recorded telephone call to their cellular phones.



**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Otis Hicks respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Defendants Bank of America, N.A., Bank of America Corporation and FIA Card Services, N.A. for the following:

- (a) Statutory damages for each call, pursuant to the TCPA;
- (b) A declaration that Defendants' calls violate the TCPA;
- (c) Such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

**COUNT II – TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

**PATRICIA HICKS v. ALL DEFENDANTS**

28. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained above as if the same were here set forth at length.

29. Defendants have violated the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., and its implementing Regulation at 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200 et seq., by making any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice to any telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

30. Plaintiff is entitled, under the TCPA, to statutory damages of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,500.00 for each autodialed or artificial/pre-recorded telephone call to their cellular phones.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Patricia Hicks respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Defendants Bank of America, N.A., Bank of America Corporation and FIA Card Services, N.A. for the following:

- (a) Statutory damages for each call, pursuant to the TCPA;
- (b) A declaration that Defendants' calls violate the TCPA;



(c) Such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

**V. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted:

Date:

5/9/14

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CARY L. FLITTER  
THEODORE E. LORENZ  
ANDREW M. MILZ

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**Attorneys for Plaintiffs**